



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Room 029 State Capitol, Denver, CO 80203-1784

Phone: (303) 866-3521 • Fax: (303) 866-3855

lcs.ga@state.co.us • leg.colorado.gov/lcs

Memorandum

July 16, 2019

TO: Members of the Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission

FROM: Rachel Kurtz-Phelan, Senior Research Analyst, 303-866-3028
Anna Gerstle, Senior Fiscal Analyst, 303-866-4375
Meghan MacKillop, Research Analyst, 303-866-3140

SUBJECT: Charge and Membership of the Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission

Summary

This memorandum provides an overview of the 2019 membership of the Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission, the origin and charge of the committee, bill request deadlines and procedures, and information regarding committee staff and the committee website.

Origin and Charge of the Committee

The Early Childhood and School Readiness Commission was created through the passage of House Bill 09-1343 and operated during the 2009 and 2011 interims. During that time, the commission included ten legislative members and was required to meet at least six times per year to study issues concerning early childhood and school readiness. The commission repealed on July 1, 2012.

During the 2013 legislative session, the commission was re-created and the word "Legislative" was added to its name. The commission's membership was reduced to six legislative members with three members from each chamber representing the Education and the Health and Human Services committees of the General Assembly. The commission was scheduled to repeal on July 1, 2018.

During the 2018 legislative session, the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 18-163, which extended the repeal date of the commission to July 1, 2023, and added staffing by Legislative Council Staff and the Office of Legislative Legal Services. The bill also changed the requirement that the commission meet at least four times annually to allowing the commission to meet at least four times annually if it so chooses.

The committee is charged with studying issues concerning early childhood and school readiness, including but not limited to:

- health care;
- mental health;
- parental involvement;
- family support;
- child care; and
- early learning.

The commission is required to solicit input from the public, especially from those who have expertise in early childhood and school readiness issues. The commission is also required to meet with the Early Childhood Leadership Commission, which is a group focused on improving outcomes for young children ages birth to eight, to discuss policy concerning early childhood and school readiness.

Committee Membership

There are six members of the Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission. The commission is chaired by a House member in even-numbered years and by a Senate member in odd-numbered years. The six legislators appointed to the commission are:

Senator Tammy Story, Chair
Senator Brittany Pettersen
Senator Owen Hill

Representative Emily Sirota, Vice-chair
Representative Julie McCluskie
Representative James Wilson

Meeting Dates

The commission may meet at least four times annually. The commission is scheduled to hold its first meeting on Tuesday, July 23, 2019. Additional meetings have been scheduled for the following dates:

- Wednesday, August 28;
- Wednesday, September 18; and
- Wednesday, October 30.

Commission Recommendations to Legislative Council

Bill limits and requests. The commission may recommend up to five bills to the Legislative Council. Commission members must request bills during a single meeting set for requesting legislation, and bill requests must be approved by a majority of the commission members.

Bill request deadlines. The Legislative Council has established deadlines for the 2019 interim for requesting, drafting, and approving bill drafts under consideration by the commission. The meeting to request bill drafts must be held by September 23, 2019. Commission members must submit drafting information to the Office of Legislative Legal Services (OLLS) bill drafter within three calendar days

of the meeting at which bills were requested. There must be at least 42 days in between the meeting at which legislation is requested and the meeting at which it is approved. To allow time for Legislative Council Staff to prepare the fiscal analysis of the proposal, there must be 21 days between the date the proposed bill is finalized with OLLS staff and the date of the meeting to consider the proposed bills. The committee must meet and vote on the bill drafts by November 4, 2019. Bill drafts and fiscal notes will be sent to the committee three days prior to the meeting at which the bills will be approved.

Legislative Council review. The Legislative Council is scheduled to meet on November 15, 2019, to approve interim committee draft legislation. Bills approved by the Legislative Council do not count against a member's five-bill limit for the regular legislative session. Bills not approved by the Legislative Council may be introduced during the regular session, but such bills would count against a member's five bill limit. Interim committee bills must have prime sponsors prior to approval by the Legislative Council.

Commission Staff and Website

Commission staff contacts. Legislative Council Staff is charged with assisting the commission in its activities. If you have any questions or would like any additional information concerning the commission, please send an e-mail to coschreadinesscomm.ga@state.co.us. You may also contact any of the following individual staff members:

- Rachel Kurtz-Phelan, rachel.kurtz-phelan@state.co.us, 303-866-3028
- Anna Gerstle, anna.gerstle@state.co.us, 303-866-4375
- Meghan MacKillop, meghan.mackillop@state.co.us, 303-866-3140

Fiscal note staff contact. Legislative Council Staff provides fiscal notes for committee legislation and other analyses requested by the commission. To discuss the fiscal impact of legislation or to request a fiscal analysis, please contact:

- Anna Gerstle, anna.gerstle@state.co.us, 303-866-4375

Legal services staff contacts. Additionally, attorneys at the Office of Legislative Legal Services provide legal and bill drafting assistance to the committee. For assistance in these areas, please contact:

- Jane Ritter, jane.ritter@state.co.us, 303-866-4342
- Jerry Barry, jerry.barry@state.co.us, 303-866-4341

Website. Documents distributed during the meetings and meeting summaries may be found on the commission website at: <https://leg.colorado.gov/committees/early-childhood-and-school-readiness-legislative-commission/2019-regular-session>

Twitter. Commission updates will be also posted on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/COInterimComm>